Issue V

Muni~Bytes

March 1999

To emphasize its reporting of news items important to state and local public wastewater utilities, "Pretreatment Bytes" has changed its name to "Muni-Bytes". Bytes provides an update of issues, including pretreatment program issues, funding options, and training opportunities. Bytes is directly emailed from the EPA Headquarters' Pretreatment staff to the Regional EPA and State Pretreatment Coordinators. Copies are also available in Adobe Acrobat PDF format via EPA's Office of Wastewater Management Homepage: **http://www.epa.gov/OWM/pre.htm.** Feel free to send it to other Municipal Authorities, POTWs, friends, and family. For additional information on any issue, contact your State or Regional EPA Coordinator, or the contact named after each item. E-mail addresses for EPA employees are generally formatted as "lastname.firstname@epa.gov." If you have any questions regarding, or notices to include in, *the Bytes*, please contact Jan Pickrel at (202) 260-7904 or email at **pickrel.jan@epa.gov.**

Happy New Year?!

... the year 2000 or "Y2K"

What is Y2K?

The Year 2000 problem, or "Y2K", arises from the use of a two-digit field, not four, to represent the year in computer databases, software applications and hardware chips (for example, 06/18/85 instead of 06/18/1985). On January 1, 2000, computers may recognize "double zero" not as 2000, but as l900. The glitch could cause them to operate unpredictably or stop running altogether.

Why did this happen?

Because older computers had less memory space than today's computer systems, programmers used two-digit dates to conserve memory. Many of these computer applications were written in the l960's and l970's, and were not expected to survive until 2000.

Should EPA, States, and Local Governments be concerned?

For organizations whose mission is to protect the environment, the problem has specific and vital importance. If not handled properly and depending on how computerized a company's treatment system or chemical storage system is, the following problem could occur: accidental contamination of drinking water, uncontrolled release of harmful pollutants into the air, inappropriate distribution of chemicals and toxins into the community, or the failure to provide important monitoring information to the government.

Computer systems that receive, record, or store data, that report data, and that are used to assess and track compliance could be affected. EPA, States, & local governments having responsibility to ensure compliance with federal environmental laws and regulations should be concerned with all of these things.

What is the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA) and other EPA offices doing about the Y2K problem?

EPA has been doing extensive outreach to industry operators, manufacturers, state and local government officials, private companies, and non-governmental groups, encouraging them to commit to achieving Y2K compliance for all systems (including monitoring, lab equipment and operational processes). In OECA, the Y2K problem is being attacked on three fronts:

(1) All of OECA's information systems will be made Y2K compliant.

(2) OECA is carrying the compliance message to its enforcement and compliance partners to ensure information systems and monitoring data are in compliance before the year 2000.

(3) OECA is delivering the message to industrial sectors and other members of the regulated community through speaking engagements and other publicity methods. The message stresses the need for everyone to be personally responsible for identifying and fixing the vulnerabilities in their data systems and equipment.

What about PCME and PRELIM?

PCME Software is a menu-driven program developed by EPA to assist POTWs in tracking industrial user (IU) compliance with applicable pretreatment standards (including inventory of IUs, analytical data, inspections, report submission, etc.). Although EPA stopped supporting PCME at least five years ago, EPA notes that potential problems are more likely to occur when performing trend analyses and Significant Non-Compliance (rolling quarters) type evaluations, specifically when trying to compare data in that October 1999 through March 2000 six-month set.

PRELIM is an EPA program to assist POTWs in calculating local limits. PRELIM uses dates to label or tag analytical data sets, but does not compare those dates regarding time sequence. Therefore, Y2K problems are not expected to be encountered.

For both PCME and PRELIM, most POTWs have not computerized data from 1900, 1910, 1920. So, operators should readily recognize which years they are really looking at and use that knowledge as a short term solution until the POTW computer is upgraded and a new compliance system is selected.

Read more about Y2K on EPA's homepages at: http://www.epa.gov/year2000 and **http://es.epa.gov/oeca/eptdd/ocy2k.html**

Effluent Guidelines Update

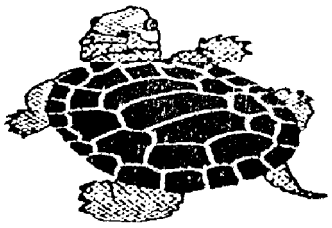
Centralized Waste Treatment

The Administrator signed the re-proposal for Effluent Limitations Guidelines and Standards for Centralized Waste Treatment discharges on December 29, 1998, which was published in the Federal Register on January 13, 1999 (64 FR 2279). This rule will address facilities that receive hazardous and non-hazardous waste from off-site locations for treatment or recovery (excluding solvent recovery), and is the Agency's second look at national effluent limitations guidelines and pretreatment standards for wastewater discharges from CWT facilities (first proposed in January 1995). Promulgation is scheduled for August 1999. Contact: Jan Matuszko at (202) 260-9126 or Tim Connor at (202) 260-3164.

Pharmaceutical Manufacturing

Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Effluent Guidelines were promul-gated on September 21, 1998. Minor errors in the preamble and standards were noticed in the Federal Register on March 4, 1999 (Volume 64, Number 42).

EPA's Region 5 office in Chicago will hold a workshop to explain the rule and answer questions on April 9, 1999, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Pre-register by calling Carrie Wallace at (312) 886-5266 by March 30. For additional information, you can also contact Matt Gluckman at (312) 886-6089.



What About the Other Effluent Guidelines Under Development?

In general, see the EPA Office of Science & Technology webpage: **http://www.epa.gov/OST**

Metal Products and Machinery: A proposed rule was published in the Federal Register on May 30, 1995 (60 FR 28210), with effluent limitations guidelines for facilities that generate wastewater while processing metal parts, metal products, and machinery, including manufacture, assembly, rebuilding, repair, and maintenance. The Phase I proposal covered seven major industrial groups: aircraft, aerospace, hardware, ordinance, stationary equipment, mobile industrial equipment, and electronic equipment. Phase I has now been combined with Phase 2, and covers eight additional major industry groups: buses and trucks, house-hold equipment, instruments, motor vehicles, office machines, precious metals, railroads, and ships and boats. Proposal is planned for October 2000. Contact: Steve Geil at (202) 260-9817.

Industrial Laundries Effluent Guidelines: The proposed rule contains pretreatment standards for discharges from industrial laundry facilities. The Administrator signed the proposal on November 7, 1997, which was published in the Federal Register on December 17 (62 FR 66182). The comment period was to have closed on February 17, 1998, but was extended for 30 days to March 19, on all aspects of the proposed rule and to April 20, for performance data only. The extension notice was published in the Federal Register on February 13 (63 FR7359). Promulgation is scheduled for June 1999. Contact: Marta Jordan (202) 260-0817.

Landfills Effluent Guidelines (40 CFR 445) were proposed in the February 6, 1998, Federal Register (63 FR 6425) for hazardous and non-hazardous landfill wastewaters. Final regulations are scheduled for adoption by November 1999. Contact Michael Ebner at (202) 260-5397.

Industrial Waste Combustors (Incinerators) Effluent Guidelines (40 CFR 444) were proposed in the Federal Register on February 6, 1998 (63 FR 6391), for wastewater discharges from commercially-operating hazardous and non-hazardous waste combustor facilities that receive industrial waste from off-site facilities. This wastewater includes water used in air pollution control systems of such combustors or water used to quench flue gas or slag generated as a result of such operations. The proposal does not apply to wastewater from sewage sludge incinerators, medical waste incinerators, and municipal waste combustors. Final regulations are scheduled for adoption by November 1999.

Transportation Equipment Cleaning Effluent Guidelines (40 CFR 442) were proposed in the June 25, 1998, Federal Register (63FR34685). Wastewaters covered by these regulations include wastewaters generated from transportation equipment cleaning facilities which clean the interiors of tank trucks, intermodal tank containers, intermediate bulk containers, rail tank cars, tank barges, ocean/sea tankers, and other similar transportation equipment.

Final regulations are scheduled for adoption by June 2000.Contact: John Tinger at (202) 260-4992.

Analytical Procedures:

Mercury-EPA Method 1631

On March 5, 1999, EPA published a notice of data availability in the Federal Register (64 FR 10596) that additional data on Method 1631 was obtained after the comment period on the May 26, 1998, proposal closed on July 29, 1998. EPA intends to consider these data in its final rulemaking and, therefore, is making these data available for public review and comment.

EPA Method 1631 is the analytical method for Mercury in water by oxidation, purge and trap, and cold vapor atomic fluores-cence. It is considered necessary to meet compliance monitoring requirements of the Clean Water Act for low level mercury measurements. The additional data consist of laboratory studies and results of municipal and industrial effluent analyses conducted using EPA Method 1631.

These additional data neither represent any modification to the proposed rule, nor indicate a change in the Agency's interpreta-tion of existing requirements. This notice makes these new data available for public review and comment. Specifically, the Agency requests comment on the applicability of EPA Method 1631 to a variety of water matrices based on these new data. Call the Water Docket at EPA Headquarters between 9:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. EDT for an appointment to view the data: (202) 260-3027. Written comments on this notice must be submitted on or before 4/5/99. For further information, contact Dr. Maria Gomez-Taylor at (202) /260-1639 or **Gomez-Taylor.Maria@epa.gov** The complete text of this notice of data availability and EPA Method 1631 may be viewed or downloaded on the Internet at **http://www.epa.gov/OST/Methods/**

Treatment Technology:

Aqueous Mercury Treatment

EPA's Office of Research and Development has published a report (EPA/625/R-97/004) which describes established technologies and innovative strategies for treating aqueous mercury. The information provided encompasses full-, pilot- and bench-scale treatment results as presented in the technical literature. This report also evaluates alternative technologies based upon:

(1) governing physical and chemical principles;

(2) key treatment parameters;

(3) pretreatment requirements, performance, design considerations and economics, where applicable.

This information can be useful for evaluating mercury treatment alternatives for industrial waste-water, groundwater and soil washing extract.

Each of the mercury treatment technologies described in this report achieves different effluent mercury concentrations. The effectiveness of treatment provided by each type of technology depends upon the chemical nature and initial concentration of mercury, as well as, the presence of other constituents in the wastewater that may interfere with the treatment process. However, other factors, such as residuals management and cost, weigh heavily in selecting the appropriate treatment approach. Some technologies featured in the report include: precipitation, coagulation/ co-precipitation, activated carbon adsorption, ion exchange, chemical reduction, membrane separation, biological treatment and membrane extraction.

To order this report, call/write: ORD Publications, 26 W. Martin Luther King Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45268-1072, (513) 569-7562; or: **http://www.epa.gov/ttbnrmrl/Tcaprep.htm**

Whole Effluent Toxicity:

Technical Corrections

EPA amended the "Guidelines Establishing Test Procedures for the Analysis of Pollutants" at 40 CFR Part 136 for whole effluent toxicity (WET) testing under the Clean Water Act and three techni-cal documents incorporated by reference in those regulations. The amendments correct minor errors and omissions, provide technical clarifications, and establish consistency among the technical documents.

These corrections were published in the Federal Register on Feb. 2, 1999 (64FR4975), and became effective March 4, 1999. An "errata" document lists specific corrections to each of the aquatic toxicity test manuals that is incorporated by reference in the WET final rule. Copies may be obtained on EPA's OST webpage: **www.epa.gov/ost/WET/wettm.html** Contact: Marion Thompson at (202) 260-7117 or **thompson.marion@epa.gov**

PCS Modernization Design

The Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance and the Office of Water are continuing a multi-year effort to modernize the Permit Compliance System (PCS) by developing a General Design for the modernized PCS. This second phase of the modernization effort focuses on the specific system requirements that are needed to support the NPDES program and requires participation from individuals at the national, regional, and state levels. This phase of the effort, is focused on individuals with a programmatic background. If you are interested in participating are learning more about the process please contact Mike Mundell at (202) 564-7069 or **mundell.michael@epamail.epa.gov** by April 21, 1999.

CSO: Monitoring and Modeling Guidance

EPA's Office of Wastewater Management (OWM) presents the seventh in a series of guidance manuals to support implementation of the 1994 Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Control Policy. This manual presents a set of guidelines that provide flexibility for a municipality to develop a site-specific strategy for characterizing its combined sewer system operations and impacts and for developing and implementing a long-term CSO control plan. (It is not a "how to" manual defining how many samples to collect or which flow metering technologies to use.) If you have questions on the manual or its distribution, contact Tim Dwyer at (202) 260-6064 or **dwyer.tim@epa.gov**.

Amendments to Round I Sewage Sludge Use or Disposal Regulations -

Phase I - Final:

The Round I Final Sewage Sludge Regulation is being amended to:

- make the incineration requirements in the regulation self-implementing;
- to provide the permitting authority and regulated community flexibility in meeting certain requirements and
- to make technical corrections to the Part 503 regulation.

The proposed rule was published in the Federal Register on October 25, 1995 (60 FR 54771). Final Amendments are expected to be published within the month. Contact: Alan B. Rubin, Ph.D. (202) 260-7589.

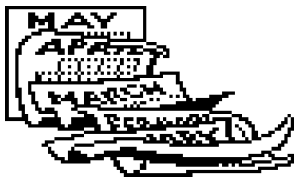
Phase II- Proposal:

This rule would establish a procedure for biosolids preparers to justify and calculate a site-specific ceiling value for selenium for land applied biosolids, delete the annual pollutant loading rate option for biosolids sold or given away in a bag or other container, articulate the additional margin of safety afforded by heat dried pelletized biosolids products, allow for vector attraction reduction equivalency for land applied biosolids, and move and thereby consolidate biosolids analytical methodologies to 40 CFR Part 136. The rule would apply to sewage treatment works either publicly or privately owned. Proposal is planned for December 1999. Contact: Alan B. Rubin, Ph.D. (202) 260-7589.

Training & Workshops Calendar

April 8-9: U.S. EPA and WEF's Pretreatment Advanced Training Course, "Industrial User Classification & Permitting", in Alexandria, VA. Contact: Pat Bradley: (202) 260-6963. Course outline may be found at: **http://www.epa.gov/owm/npdesup.htm**

April 12-16: NPDES Permit Writer's Course in Jackson, MS. Contact: Jennifer Sacher: (202) 260-1389. Course outline may be found at http://www.epa.gov/owm/npdesup.htm



May 10-14: NPDES Permit Writer's Course in Chicago, IL. Contact: Jennifer Sacher.

May 10 -14: U. S. EPA's "The Water Quality Standards Academy Basic Course" in San Francisco, CA. For description of course modules, pre-application forms, and hotel information, see: **http://www.epa.gov/OST/announce/wqsa/course.html**

May 12-14: EPA Region 8 & CIPCA's 1999 Annual Industrial Pretreatment Workshop in Rapid City, SD. Contact: Curt McCormick: (303) 312-6377.

May 24-25: U.S. EPA/WEF's Pretreatment Course in Albany, NY. Contact: Pat Bradley: (202) 260-6963.

June 28-29: U.S. EPA/WEF's Industrial User Classification & Permitting in Nashville, TN. Contact: Pat Bradley.

July 19-20: U.S. EPA/WEF's Pretreatment Course in Detroit, MI. Contact: Pat Bradley: (202) 260-6963

July 26-27: EPA Region 2 Annual Industrial Pretreatment Workshop in Schenectady, NY. Contact Virginia Wong at (212) 637-4241.

July 26-30: U. S. EPA's "The Water Quality Standards Academy Basic Course" in Arlington, VA.

September 1999: NPDES Permit Writer's Course in Anchorage, AK. Contact: Jennifer Sacher.

September 1999: U.S. EPA/WEF's Pretreatment Course in Portland, OR. Contact: Pat Bradley.

September 1999: U.S. EPA/WEF's Pretreatment Course in Anaheim, CA. Contact: Pat Bradley.

September 1999: U.S. EPA/WEF's Industrial User Classification & Permitting in Anaheim, CA. Contact: Pat Bradley: